

October 2011

—VOL. 6 NO. 10—




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## First record of the Plains Leopard Frog (*Rana blairi*) from Kentucky

**O**n September 15 Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife State Herpetologist, John MacGregor, collected Kentucky's first specimen of the Plains Leopard Frog in far western Fulton County. The frog was sitting in the shadow of some ragweed along the edge of Elbow Creek Road north of Lake No 9 at about 4:30 pm on a sunny afternoon and was captured after a wild chase through roadside weeds and fescue.

Plains Leopard Frogs are known from a few locations in southeastern Missouri on the opposite side of the Mississippi River from Fulton County. The preferred habitat for this species is open country – primarily grassland areas with shallow ponds and ditches for breeding located nearby.

The main part of their range lies well to the west of the Mississippi River in the central plains region, but there is an eastward extension along the prairie peninsula through central Illinois into western Indiana.

A few additional populations are known from lowland habitats along the lower Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. The Plains Leopard Frog is quite uncommon in Indiana; a single specimen captured in a minnow trap in October 2008 was the first seen in that state since 1978.

The Kentucky specimen was photo-



graphed, euthanized and preserved, and tissue samples were taken for later DNA analysis. Since Kentucky has no official state museum, it has been deposited in the collection at the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History, and the new record will be submitted to Herpetological Review.

Kentucky now is home to three different species of leopard frogs. Northern Leopard Frogs occur in portions of the Bluegrass Region and in the lowlands bordering the Ohio River in northeastern Kentucky, and Southern Leopard Frogs are widely distributed from south and west

of the Bluegrass Region to the Mississippi River.

The Plains Leopard Frog is known from just this one site but may occur in other locations in the Jackson Purchase and perhaps eastward along the Ohio River as far as the Henderson area.

The major recognition characters for the Plains Leopard Frog include the dark snout spot just in front of the eyes, the paired gaps and offsets in the dorsolateral folds just in front of the hind limbs (this

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## WE GET MAIL

### Letters to the Commissioner's Office

The following comments came through the Info Center email. "I just wanted to thank you for reopening Otter Creek. My family and I went camping this weekend, and we had a wonderful time. Staff have the place in tip top shape.

We have camped there many times in the past, and in my opinion, the park looks better than ever. The campsites were in immaculate shape and the entire park was VERY clean. All the campers behaved, even the large group enjoying the UK/UL football game. What a wonderful location for such a party!

We also had the opportunity to visit (and enjoy) the 3-D archery range. I have never seen anything like that before. My five year old grandson even shot (and hit!) the targets. We are anxiously awaiting the opening of the rifle range. Later in the evening my son and grandson even did a little squirrel hunting.

We already have reservations for a weekend in October, and we plan on frequenting the park in the future. Keep up the good work.

"Mr. S- -" of Benton, Kentucky was exceptionally appreciative of about 100 feet of new handrails Engineering Division installed on a courtesy dock walkway at Kenlake State Park. He writes, "Many thanks to you Mister (Walt) Redmon and the faithful employees who work for the Dept. of Fish and Game for the State of Kentucky.

"I am more than happy to contribute to the cost of the installing of the hand rails leading to the dock at Kenlake State Park. God loves you and so do I."

(We elected to refer to this exceptional gentleman as simply "Mr. S- -" because he also included with his note a contribution toward the handrails in the amount of \$2,000

and we hope the anonymity will help shield him from other solicitors. On behalf of those of us at the Department and the many who will use those handrails for decades to come, we thank you sincerely "Mr. S- -" for your outstanding generosity.

Mr. James R. Lane, III, Activities Chairman for the Blue Grass Council of the Boy Scouts of America wrote the following: "On behalf of the Blue Grass Council-Boy Scouts of America, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife for going out of their way to join us on Saturday, October 1 at our first Fall Boy Scout camporee at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Richmond, Ky.

Mr. Brian Clark and Mr. Jaime Alton represented the KDFW as our guests on the mid way exhibit. Mr. Clark worked tirelessly to insure our scouts an educational and resourceful station. The camp was attended by more than 400 scouts and adult leaders from throughout the entire Blue Grass Council representing fifty-five counties in central and eastern Kentucky.

In less than three weeks Mr. Clark was able to accommodate my council by providing materials, merit badge requirements, and service project ideas to respective Eagle Scouts and troops. In so doing he also introduced many of our scout executives to different programs offered by the department that are of special interest to the council program committee.

Mr. Alton was a gentleman of southern charm and eloquence. His knowledge of aquatics and fishing in our state was most useful as well. Unfortunately due to scheduling and time restraint I was unable to turn him loose on the lake front, but he maintained a steady stream of campers at his table. He also is to be commended for a job well done.

Both Mr. Clark and Mr. Alton drove more than an hour and a half to be with us for the day, and for that we are truly grateful. You should be immensely proud of these two gentlemen and what they

represent while out in the field. We were very happy to have them as our guests, and we look forward to working with them in the future."

Diane Bonfert, Director of Recreation and Interpretation with Kentucky State Parks wrote, "Katie Koontz did a wonderful job in presenting the Explore Bowhunting program to our field staff at our recent regional meetings. She was extremely organized, very professional and presented all material in an educational yet fun manner.

She elicited much interest in the program from our staff and all expressed that her session was the highlight of our meeting. Katie is quite an asset to your Department. We look forward to working with her in the future. Thank you so much for thinking of us with this exciting new program."

## New Hire

Bob Scott began work with the Engineering Division on September 12, 2011. His main focus will be with boating access projects, helping with the agency's goal of expanding boating and fishing access into the great variety of lakes, rivers and streams available in Kentucky.

Bob is a graduate of the University of Kentucky and is a licensed Professional Engineer and Professional Land Surveyor. He spent 26 years with the Division of Abandoned Mine Lands where he developed a wide range of expertise in designing reclamation projects to abate hazards left by abandoned coal mines.

Bob and his wife, Cheri, have five sons, ages 18-28, and all enjoy the outdoor opportunities Kentucky has to offer. Commenting on the opportunity to work at Fish and Wildlife, Bob says "I have wandered in the wilderness for 30 years and finally made it to the Promised Land."

## Gassett is new AFWA president

**D**epartment Commissioner **Dr. Jon Gassett** has been selected as the new president of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Gassett was named to head the international organization during the association's meeting Sept. 13.

During his one-year tenure, Gassett plans to pay particular attention to improving relations between state and federal partners.

"These are trying and uncertain economic times for both federal and state agencies," he said. "But now more than ever we need to resolve our issues and tensions, and we need to do this with accountability, civility and respect through professional behavior among partners."

A certified wildlife biologist, Gassett received his undergraduate degree in biology from Kennesaw State University and his master's degree and doctorate in forest resources from the University of Georgia.

Gassett came to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife in 1999 to run the state's white-



tailed deer program and oversee Kentucky's fledgling elk program. He rose quickly through the ranks. Gassett became director of the wildlife division in 2001. He received his appointment as commissioner over the agency in 2005.

Kentucky now has the largest elk herd east of the Mississippi River. Biologists estimate that Kentucky's deer herd is larger now than at the

time of Daniel Boone. During his tenure as commissioner, Gassett has made hunting and fishing access a priority, through land acquisition and agreements to open privately-owned lands to the public.

In accepting the presidency of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), Gassett urged state fish and wildlife agencies and federal natural resource agencies to stop focusing on credit or blame, but to get back to what all of the state and federal partners do well: sound, conservation-oriented decision-making.

"It's about all of us remembering why

we do what we do," said Gassett. "Open dialog and trust between state and federal agencies will remain the key to keeping our relationship strong and effective, even when we agree to disagree."

Gassett currently serves in a leadership capacity on a number of the association's committees including Angler and Boating Participation, Legislative and Federal Budget and Leadership and Professional Development. He also is the Chairman of AFWA's White Nose Syndrome Task Force and an alumnus of the National Conservation Leadership Institute.

Gassett will serve as president through September 2012.

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies was founded in 1902 to establish a system of mutually beneficial interstate cooperation in game and fish management.

It currently represents North America's fish and wildlife agencies to advance sound, science-based management and conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats in the public interest. Membership includes 56 states and territories, as well as federal agencies, conservation organizations and provinces in Canada and Mexico.



Meet *Stenotrema macgregori*, a land snail native to Pine Mountain.

## John MacGregor honored

**K**entucky Fish and Wildlife herpetologist and life-long naturalist **John MacGregor** was given a place of honor.

A newly described species of land snail was named after him.

*Stenotrema macgregori*, the fraudulent slitmouth, was described by biologist Dan Doursen. The snail has been found only

in the upper elevations of Pine Mountain from Breaks Interstate Park to Bad Branch State Nature preserve.

John was honored, but had the following suggestions for the common name: Magnificent slitmouth, and Regal and Glorious slitmouth, among others...

Doursen, Daniel C. 2011. Descriptions of Three New Land Snails from Kentucky. *Transactions of the Kentucky Academy of Science* 72(1):39-45.



## Fields elected president of national boating safety organization

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) elected **Captain Mike Fields**, Kentucky state boating law administrator in the Department's Division of Law Enforcement, as its president for the 2011-12 year. He succeeds Chief James Graybeal, Delaware's boating law administrator.

Fields grew up boating on the many lakes and rivers in Kentucky. In 1989, when the Kentucky Water Patrol offered him a job in Northern Kentucky on the Ohio River, he eagerly accepted the opportunity.

Fields moved to the Department of Fish and Wildlife when the Water Patrol joined the department in 1994. He worked nearly every major body of water in the state during his 12 years in the field as an officer and a sergeant. He also served as a primary trainer for in-service and basic recruit training.

In 2001 Fields was assigned to Fish and Wildlife Headquarters to manage boating education and other special

projects within the Law Enforcement Division. He was appointed Kentucky's boating law administrator in 2004.

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators is a national nonprofit organization that works to develop public policy for recreational boating safety. NASBLA represents the recreational boating authorities of all 50 states and the U.S. territories.

NASBLA offers a variety of resources, including training, model acts, education standards and publications. Through a national network of thousands of professional educators, law enforcement officers and volunteers, the organization affects the lives of over 83 million American boaters.

Fields has held every officer position within the Southern States Boating Law Administrators Association, including president during the 2008-09 year. He hosted the 2006 NASBLA conference in Louisville, Ky., and has served on NASBLA's Education, Law Enforcement (vice chair), Vessel Identification, Registration



and Titling (vice chair), and Conference committees. He served as vice chair of Law Enforcement and Vessel Identification, Registration and Titling committees, and he currently chairs the Conference Committee.

Fields also administers the agency's communications and boating safety programs in addition to serving as the agency's Emergency Management and Homeland Security Coordinator.

## Williams' idea helps quota hunt applicants



**Phillip Williams** of the Department's Information Center had an idea to add a print button to the Quota Hunt page of the Fish and Wildlife website, for quota hunters who check their status online.

Successful quota hunt applicants now will find a link next to their name that, when clicked, takes them directly to the website's Wildlife Management Areas page. There, they can access WMA information about their hunt and print maps of the area.

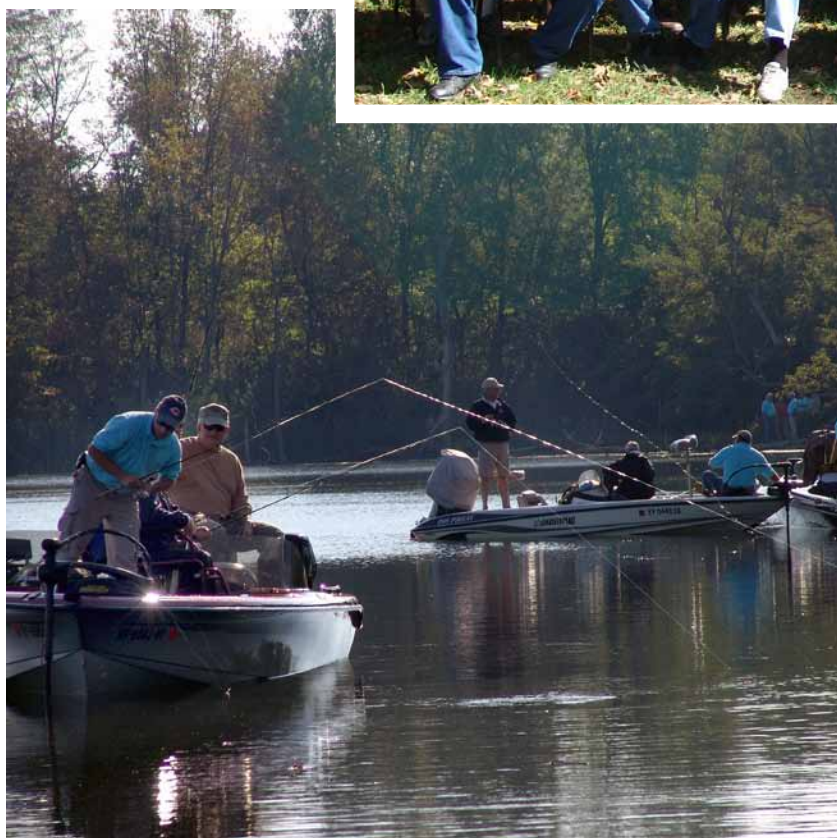
"His idea was an outstanding one that I wanted to share with you," wrote Information Center supervisor Seth Stewart, and **Chip Quarles** already has it functioning online.



The Louisville Chapter of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society asked the department to take some Medal recipients fishing during their annual convention held in Louisville. Former and current employees responded. Some brought boats and served as guides and others prepared a fish fry lunch for nine recipients and their guests.



## CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS GO FISHING



**Top:** Kentucky Medal of Honor recipients Gary Littrell and Ernest West (seated at right) were joined by fellow recipients for a photo. From left are Tommy Norris, Gary Wetzel, Allen Lynch, Ken Stumpf, Don Ballard, Joe Jackson and John Baker. Their fishing guides for the day are standing in back.

**Left:** Lunch crew and other staff joined them in this photo.



## Annual BOW event attracts 120 women

“Nearly half the 120 women on hand for the September Becoming an Outdoors-Woman workshop were new participants,” said Beth Spivey-Minch, volunteer BOW coordinator. “We want to see those first-time people because one of our main goals is sparking interest in women in the hunting, fishing and shooting sports that help financially support the agency.”

Registration for this year's weekend workshop was closed two weeks early due to reaching capacity of the UK 4-H Leadership Center in Jabez, Kentucky. 2011 marks Kentucky's 16th year of BOW. The workshop this year focused on the shooting sports including numerous sessions on how to handle rifles, shotguns, handguns, muzzle-loaders and archery equipment.

More than 20 women took part in a clay target shooting contest, and some 30 others shot bows in an archery contest on Saturday night after normal sessions concluded. Many had never touched either type of equipment before.

While some of the sessions are led by agency personnel, the majority of the 40 plus instructors it takes to hold this event annually are volunteers. They aren't paid, nor reimbursed for mileage or otherwise



compensated for their time. They share their expertise in the outdoor sports simply for the enjoyment of watching others learn and become enthusiastic and confident as their knowledge and skills increase.

**See “BOW,” page 7**





## Law Enforcement applicants continuing in hiring process

Law Enforcement Division leaders are making progress toward hiring 28 new conservation officers in January, says Major Larry Estes.

Estes says the division received a register with the names of more than 600 applicants when it announced it was seeking new officers. But of those persons on the register only 356 showed up to take the written exam.

There were 199 who passed the exam, and 192 of those continued in the process by taking the Peace Officers Professional Standards (POPS) testing. Those appli-

cants completing POPS testing, which measure primarily physical fitness and swimming abilities, will then enter the backgrounds and interview phases.

Remaining applicants will then undergo the polygraph, drug screening, psychological and medical phases of the hiring process.

And then it will be time to begin the training academy for the 28 successful applicants.

They must each complete 18 weeks of basic police training at the Department of Criminal Justice Training in Richmond to

become POPS certified in Kentucky. Then they enter the 12-week Fish and Wildlife law enforcement academy. This academy addresses fish and wildlife and boating law, defensive tactics, firearms, survival swimming, boat and vehicle operation, hunter and boater education instructor certification and other fish and wildlife specific experience.

Upon completion, they will graduate and be duly sworn as conservation officers, but still must complete another 16 weeks under the daily supervision of a field training officer.

### “BOW,” continued

wildlife photography instruction.

**Brent McCarty** led archery sessions, and demonstrated falconry along with his newly trained red-tailed hawk, **Odin**. Aquatic Education's **Jamie Alton** covered basic fishing classes for the workshop. Officer **Travis Neal** of Law Enforcement conducted hands-on boating classes during the weekend.

The department's information center helped greatly by gathering materials for various classes, entering names and addresses and handling registration mail out.

Other classes taught this year by volunteers included how to make wingbone turkey calls, ghillie suits and deer antler baskets, and how to tie flies for fly-fishing. Classes on wild plants you can eat, and how to prepare food over an open fire were presented. There were many other similar courses.

“I am privileged and thankful to work with all those that make this weekend possible for women,” said Spivey-Minch. “I also want to thank **Brian Volland** of Kentucky Afield television for coming down and shooting and producing a great segment on BOW for the show.”

“Kentucky's program and its instruc-



tors are second to none, and we routinely receive comments to that effect from women who have attended a BOW workshop in other states,” she said.

This year, Kentucky's workshop attracted attendees from not only Kentucky, but also Georgia, Missouri, Ohio,

Alabama, Indiana, California, Florida and Washington. Scholarships were provided by the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Kentucky Network of Outdoor Women, and many of the participants themselves contributed to help other women afford to attend.

## Livingston poacher fined \$15,000, loses hunting privileges for 10 years

**A** Livingston County man has been fined \$15,000 and lost his hunting privileges for 10 years as the result of an investigation that began nearly two years ago.

David G. Ray, 34, of Smithland, Kentucky, entered an Alford Plea in Livingston District Court on September 20. Judge Jamus Redd ordered him to pay \$15,000, stripped him of hunting privileges for 10 years, and sentenced him to six months jail probated for a two-year period.

The penalties are the result of an investigation started in January 2010 by conservation officers **Daniel Richardson**, **Josh Hudson** and **Sgt. Bill Snow** after a tip from a concerned citizen about Ray's activity.

Livingston County Attorney Billy Riley assisted officers and a search warrant was executed at the residence of David Ray on January 26, 2010. Officers seized 34 buck deer heads and 2 turkeys, all believed to have been taken in 2009. They



charged Ray with 36 counts of Illegal Take/Pursue Deer/Wild Turkey.

The tipster said the deer, 24 still in velvet, were shot out of season with the aid of a spotlight. Many were found in deep freezers and the remaining were found in the house and in the back of a truck on the property. The seized heads had all been cut off at the neck or reduced to skull

caps and several were in the early stages of antler growth. The turkeys were found in a freezer in the house.

Flooding in Smithland in 2010 and 2011 forced postponement of Court proceedings several times. Livingston County Attorney Billy Riley was a great help in this case. He realizes the economic impact hunting has in Livingston County.

## Mount Sterling pawn shop operator pleads guilty to illegally selling wildlife parts

**A** Mount Sterling pawn shop operator pleaded guilty to all 23 counts of illegally selling mounted deer and other animal parts and has been ordered to pay \$1,153 in Montgomery District Court, August 4.

Kentucky conservation officer **Barry McCoy** first contacted Scott Layton Hardy, who operates Layton's Pawn Shop, in 2009 and advised him that trafficking in inedible wildlife parts without the appropri-



ate permits was not legal. When McCoy continued to receive complaints that the pawn shop was continuing to buy and sell,

he notified special investigations.

Special investigations officers followed up and made purchases of the illegal items. They obtained search warrants that McCoy, and officers **William Earlywine** and **Loren Clark** and Montgomery County Sheriff's deputies executed.

They seized 24 illegal items, including mounted deer heads, a fawn cape, and coyote.



## FISHING IN IRAQ



Our Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission's reach is extending far beyond the Kentucky state line.

Deputy Commissioner Benjy Kinman got wind that some U.S. troops stationed in Bagdad, Iraq could use some fishing tackle, and Commission Chairman Steve Glenn approached his fellow commission members and they each contributed to the cause.

When Kinman went to purchase rod and reel outfits, and tackle boxes complete with appropriate contents from Sportsman's Warehouse in Lexington, the sporting goods giant, upon learning of their destination, contributed as well. In the end, commission members sent six rods and reels and six full tackle boxes to the Iraq-based troops.

In the photos, Kentucky soldiers use the fishing tackle to catch fish from Saddam Hussein's former hunting and fishing palace in Bagdad.





## Mast surveys

**D**epartment staff survey hard mast production across the state in late August each year. Mast is a collective term used for the fruits of woody vegetation such as trees and shrubs.

Kentucky's mast survey, part of a regional effort in the eastern United States, looks specifically at fruit production in oaks (acorns), hickory (nuts), and beech (beechnuts).

This year 46 oak routes, 35 hickory routes, and 19 American beech routes were surveyed. Each route consists of 25 annually monitored trees.

Statewide results for the 2011 Mast Survey indicated 30 percent of the white oak trees had acorns while 76 percent of the red oaks had acorns. Sixty-eight percent of the American beech trees surveyed had mast.

Hard mast, such as acorns, hickory nuts and beechnuts, is a vital food source

for a wide variety of wildlife, especially in heavily forested areas of the state.

Many wildlife species depend upon this valuable food source to maintain peak condition during the fall and winter and ensure top reproductive condition in the spring.

Wildlife biologists use this data to help predict and interpret wildlife population trends and to share with wildlife enthusiasts. Forest habitat managers use the data to predict opportune times for encouraging forest regeneration.

Biologist Wes Mattox scans a white oak for acorns for the 2011 Regional Mast Survey.



**Above:** The small size of beechnuts makes them especially attractive to many birds, including the ruffed grouse. **Center:** Shumard oak acorns. Acorns are one of the most important wildlife foods available because of their overall abundance and nutritional value. **Far right:** Northern red oak acorns. Oaks in the red oak group will be the dominate acorn producer in Kentucky this year.



## KDFWR awarded grants for recruitment and retention projects

Brian Clark, Public Affairs Division

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife is partnering with the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) in 2011-12 on three significant projects designed to help increase hunting participation in the Commonwealth.

KDFWR applied in the spring for funding through NSSF's Hunting Heritage Partnership competitive grants program, which awards monies to innovative approaches to increase the number of hunters.

KDFWR obtained one \$75,000 grant to launch an advertising campaign to promote hunting in the Bluegrass State. We also partnered with several other southeastern states to obtain two other grants totaling \$130,000 to research two important programs linked with recruitment and retention of hunters: hunter education and temporary hunter education exemption permits (known in some states as "apprentice" permits or licenses).

The ad campaign is electronically focused – ads are being placed primarily with electronic outlets such as Web sites and social media. These outlets allow us to narrowly focus on target audiences in order to optimize results. Electronic media also readily allow us to measure the return



*Access for today. Opportunities for tomorrow.*

on investment. We will also be placing limited radio ads in select markets as part of the project.

The theme of the electronic ad campaign is simple but clear: Take Someone Hunting. Using a variety of eye-catching graphics and supporting text developed by a media contractor, we are seeking to prompt lapsed hunters to renew their interest in hunting and motivate experienced hunters to take along a family member, friend, or acquaintance to share their rich experiences in the outdoors. Ultimately, we hope to see increases in license and permit sales as a result of the project.

The two multi-state research projects will help us to better understand factors that influence new hunters' participation. This is being accomplished through interviews with hunter education par-

ticipants and past hunter education exemption permit buyers in each of the partnering states. Interviews are being conducted by Responsive Management, an internationally known research firm specializing in natural resource topics.

NSSF is the trade association for the firearms industry. Formed in 1961, NSSF has a membership of more than 6,000 manufacturers, distributors, firearms retailers, shooting ranges, sportsmen's organizations and publishers. To learn more about NSSF and other ways it is helping to increase participation in hunting and the shooting sports, visit its Web site, <http://nssf.org>.

We appreciate NSSF's support of recruitment and retention of hunters in Kentucky, and look forward to reporting the findings of these ground-breaking projects.

### "Record," continued

is the best field character for recognition), and the overall tan to gray coloration with the white dot in the tympanum.

Southern Leopard Frogs usually lack the snout spot, and if the dorsolateral folds are interrupted the ends are not offset to-

ward the middle of the back. Both species can be tan or gray in color, and both have a white spot in the center of the tympanum, but many Southern Leopard Frogs are decidedly green.

The next task is to document additional specimens and locate one or more Plains Leopard Frog breeding ponds in

western Fulton County. Unfortunately, the breeding call of this species is very similar to that of the Southern Leopard Frog, so it may not be possible to search for them by listening to breeding choruses. The most likely way to obtain additional records is examine road-killed frogs or to catch them crossing roads on rainy nights.

## Voluntary Public Access Program on target for dove hunters

**I**t was great news for Kentucky mourning dove hunters.

A U.S. Department of Agriculture grant enabled KDFWR to nearly triple the number of acres available for public dove hunting on private lands in its Cooperative Private Lands Dove Program this year.

KDFWR's Cooperative Private Lands Dove Program has provided public dove hunting opportunities to hunters across the Commonwealth since 1995. In 2010, the program got a boost when Kentucky was awarded a Voluntary Public Access (VPA) grant.

The program was implemented in spring 2011 and the number of applicants increased nearly four-fold. Private landowners providing dove fields for public hunting this season more than doubled and huntable acreage nearly tripled from earlier years. There were VPA dove fields in all five KDFWR Wildlife Regions, many of which were less than an hour's drive from Kentucky's larger cities.

Hunting on some of these fields was phenomenal. For instance, one Mercer County field was planted to sunflowers and although the sunflowers were still a little green, mourning doves were abundant. Even before before 1 p.m. opening day, about 50 other hunters already scattered around the field.

Although temperatures approached 100 degrees, doves were abundant and it was not too long before even late arrivers had scored limits. Participating



hunters were appreciative of this opportunity and hoped the Department could continue the program in the future.

A conservative estimate obtained from field staff suggest the VPA fields provided hunting lands that were used by approximately 800 to 1,000 dove hunters on opening day. Hunters continued to use the fields after the opening day rush. A casual check of fields near the end of September found doves were still present and some hunters were taking advantage of the prolonged dove hunting opportunity.

The Migratory Bird Program is extremely pleased with the response received from both the cooperating landowners and the hunters who used these areas.

We are already underway planning for next year's participation. The Migratory Bird Program has received calls from landowners wanting to be considered for 2012 funding. If the weather cooperates, we anticipate even better results in the upcoming year.

Great news for the Kentucky mourning dove hunters.

## YOUTH SEASON BUCKS



Amber Ferrell, 10, daughter of Department game management foreman Scott Ferrell, is all smiles after taking this fantastic buck during Kentucky's youth firearms deer season in Franklin County. Amber made a 13-yard shot.

Will Grasch, 15, also took a nice buck in Franklin County. Will is the son of Private Lands Biologist Chris Grasch.

Kentucky youth took more than 3,100 deer during the two-day hunt.



## KDFWR staff helps with QDMA youth hunt

**Q**uality Deer Management Association (QDMA) assembled about 30 youth hunters who have military parents deployed overseas, to take part in the youth deer hunt weekend at Knob Creek Gun Range and on nearby private lands.

It was a first time hunting for several youth and department employees stepped up to help them complete hunter education training, testing and range work with .22 rifles and 20 gauge shotguns before heading out into the woods.

Conservation education program leaders (CEPL) **John Gutzeit** and **Thomas Blackwell**, conservation officers **Jason Ice** and **Rodney Milburn**, and wildlife biologist and Otter Creek Outdoor Recreational Area manager **Charlie Logsdon** were on hand to help the youth hunters.

Most of the youth successfully took deer during the hunt and all experienced a great time.





## Fisheries team brings home golf scramble green jackets

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife annual fall golf scramble dawned a bit worrisome with heavy rains and unseasonably cool temperatures at Wild Turkey Trace Golf Course in Lawrenceburg.

Stern-headed, the group committed to teeing off at 1pm and battled through several early holes of light rain and mist. Fortunately, by about the fourth hole, the weather broke and the group enjoyed a wonderful day on the course.

By the end of the round, the sun was shining and several players retired the windbreakers and long sleeves for short sleeves.

It was the Fisheries team of **Rod Middleton, Allen Trusty, Gary Lyons, and Don Bunnell** who topped the leader board with a scorching 11-under-par to take home the first place victory in the fall 2011 scramble.

This stellar performance was highlighted by the fact that they set the course on fire through the first nine holes (being 7 under par; including an eagle on a par 5). Theirs officially became the first names engraved upon the recently created "Commissioner's Cup" trophy which we hope will become an annual appearance for the event. The trophy was hand created by our own Don Bunnell.

Second place went to the team of **David Bruce, Eric McGinnis, Melissa Trent and Keith Wethington**

who scored 7-under-par (sorry **Mark Cramer** – you almost had a chance to be on a winning team). David Bruce also captured the closest to the pin drive on the eighth hole, while **Larry Estes** went unchallenged on the clos-



(From left to right) Gary Lyons, Rod Middleton, Don Bunnell, and Allen Trusty became the inaugural winners of the "Commissioner's Cup" trophy at the fall 2011 golf scramble. The team scored an 11 under par. *Andy Mowrey photo*

est to the pin on hole 15.

All in all, this year's fall golf scramble continued in the fine tradition of a wonderful day of fellowship and comradery amongst staff. In total, 36 current and former employees took part in the event. Employees from five department divisions

participated.

Thanks again to Chef Don Bunnell for his culinary creations at the golf scramble. This year, Don dazzled attendees with a mixture of homemade brats, burgers, hotdogs (including childdogs which helped take the nip out of the cool air temperature), baked beans, coleslaw, and assorted chips.

Thanks also to **Dane Balsman** for helping set up logistics for the golf scramble. We look forward to next year's event or perhaps another event this upcoming spring 2012.

### FINAL RESULTS

- 1st – Rod Middleton, Allen Trusty, Gary Lyons, Don Bunnell (-11)
- 2nd – David Bruce, Melissa Trent, Eric McGinnis, Keith Wethington (-7)
- 3rd – Damon Foster, Patrick Younts, Shane Carrier, Larry Estes (-6)
- 4th – Dan Stoelb, Jim Barnard, Ben Robinson, Ben Leffew (-6)
- 5th – John Williams, Dane Balsman, Dave Dreves, Ryan Oster (-5)
- 6th – Tony Prichard, Steve Jackson, Mac Lang, David Casey (-5)
- 7th – Andy Mowrey, Joseph Zimmerman, Tom Van Arsdall, Rob Lewis (-5)
- 8th – Tim Slone, Jarad Northern, Jon Gassett, Mark Cramer (-4)
- 9th – Patrick O'Connell, Les Campbell, John Roberts, Chip Quarles (-1)